number of officers who are posted in Delhi/New Delhi for more than five years id 26.

Duty-free import q(f Lincomycin Hct.

3495. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) -whether it is a fact that as per Notification No. 213/88 and 214/ 88 dated 30th June, 1988, indigenous manufacturers of Lincomycin Injections and Capsules can now import 1 raw material Lincomycin Hcl. duty free;

(b) if so, on what basis the manu facturers of oral powder or liquid formulations have been denied this *f* facility;

(c) whether Government are aware that as a consequence thereof the latter have to pay 115.25 per cent as duty; and

(d) whether Government proposed to allow them to import this material duty free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ' (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) Notifications No. 213/88.Customs and No. 214/88-Customs, both dated the 30th June, 1988 exempt basic and auxiliary duty of customs on Lincomycin Hydrochloride imported for manufacture of Lincomycin Hydrochloride capsules and injection. These notifications sought to restore the concession admissible to this product upto the 29th February, 1988. However, no such concession was available to this bulk drug when imported for manufacture of oral powder and formulations. . The total import duty leviable on this bulk drug is 115.25 per cent.

Certain representations have been received seeking reduction of customs duty on this bulk drug. These representations are being examined.

Closure of Textile Mills

3496. SHRI VITHALRAO MADH-AVRAO JADHAV: SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of textile mills which have been closed down due to sickness or due to other reasons in India;

(b) how many of these mills in private sector in Maharashtra State have been closed down; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to make these mills viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) As on 31st May, 1988, there were a total of 133 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills lying closed in the country due to various reasons.

(b) Of these, nine were lying closed in the private sector in Maharashtra .

(c) The cases of sick textile mills are considered by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction. Government have also constituted « Nodal Agency to ascertain the viability of sick textile mills. Of the closed mills in Maharashtra, the Nodal Agency had examined seven, all of which were found to be nonviable.' As laid down in the 1985 Textile Policy, non-viable mills may have to close down permanently.

Joint industrial Ventures with South Korea

3497. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that South Korea has evinced keen interest in promoting joint industrial ventures with Indian firms;